

A Mixed Methods Study of the Stanislaus State Community's Knowledge and Behaviors Surrounding Tobacco/Nicotine

SVFSI Cohort 1
(2022-2023)

Lara Al-Jaser, Monica Montenegro, Asha Nair, Gianna Nunes, and Jacqueline Villasenor-Ramirez
Contact: aljaserlara@gmail.com

Purpose of the Project

Tobacco and nicotine have undeniable adverse health effects, making it one of public health's greatest epidemic threats. The chemicals present in tobacco product waste (TPW), carcinogenic nitrosamines, formaldehyde, heavy metals, and various other toxicants, have the potential to leech from cigarette butts and eventually bio-accumulate in the human food chain. To effectively prevent and control tobacco-related health disparities, it is critical to understand people's knowledge on TPW.

Findings - Participant Observation

- Common co-related behaviors that were observed included walking around, and sitting in a parked car.
- Most commonly used product was e-cigarettes/vapes.
- Smoking behaviors were observed at 5 out of the 10 locations included in this study.
- However, the frequency at which smoking behaviors were occurring in the observed areas was very low.

Methods

To better understand the gaps in education we had to know people's current knowledge of tobacco/nicotine use and disposal, perceptions of use, and level of tobacco-related environmental knowledge.

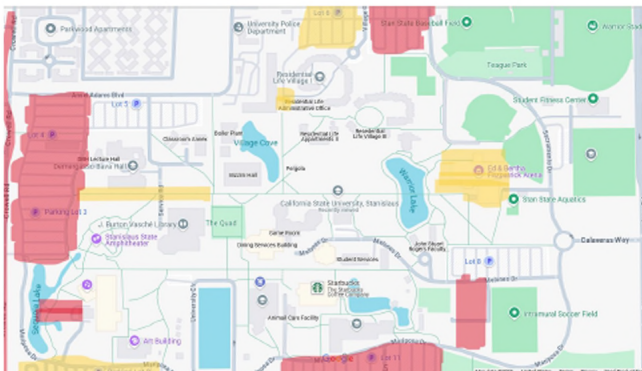
- Participant observation of unobstructive locations around the CSUS campus.
- A survey of the students, faculty and staff at CSUS.

Findings - Survey

- N=75 students, faculty, or staff
- Not enough data regarding socio-economic, immigration status, living in another country, LGBTQ+, or gender identity
- What do the student, faculty, and staff at Stanislaus State know and believe about the environmental effects of tobacco/nicotine products?
- Tentative conclusions regarding knowledge & beliefs
 - Exposure of second-hand smoke

Significance and Contributions

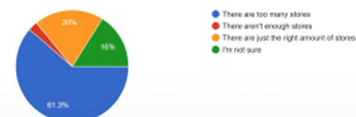
- Even though CSUS is a smoke free campus a lot of survey respondents weren't aware of it or seen smoke-free signs
- Out survey respondents said there are too many smoke shops in the San Joaquin Valley



In the past 12 months, how often did you use tobacco or nicotine products?
75 responses



What do you think about the amount of stores near you that sell smoking products?
75 responses



Special thank you to the SVFSI grant funders Tobacco-Related disease Research Program.

Thank you to our Mentors; Dr. Ana Song, Dr. José Díaz-Garayúa, Dr. Meggan Jordan, Dr. Arturo Durazo, and Alexander Mellor